

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-57 were pending prior to this amendment. Claims 13 and 15-47 have been allowed. Claim 54 has been indicated as having allowable subject matter. Claims 1-12, 48-53 and 55-57 have been rejected. Claims 1-3, 10-12, 24, 34, 35, 36, 37, 49 and 51-55 have been amended. Claims 48, 50, 56 and 57 have been cancelled. Applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 13 and 15-47. Corrections to typographical errors have been made in some of the allowed claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 54 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, however, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 54 has been rewritten into independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 50 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,267 (Kung, et al.), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,175 (Havens).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 24. Thus, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 2 and 4-9 are dependent and should also be allowed.

Claims 10-12 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 24. Thus, claims 10-12 should be allowed.

Claims 50 and 56 have been cancelled.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kung, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,192 (Murphy).

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1 and should be allowed.

Claims 48 and 57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kung, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,969 (Naudus) and U.S. Patent No. 5,844,918 (Kato).

Claims 48 and 57 have been cancelled.

Claims 49, 51-53 and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kung in view of Kato.

Claims 49, 51-53 and 55 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 36. Thus, claims 49, 51-53 and 55 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims of the application is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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